

## Are You A Donkey?

Scripture: Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; John 12; Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 32:9

Luke puts down road signs along the highway, as Jesus gets closer and closer to Jerusalem. These signs increase the drama of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem. Look at them.

- Luke 13:22 -
- Luke 17:11 -
- Luke 18:31 -
- Luke 18:35 -
- Luke 19:1 -
- Luke 19:28 -
- Luke 19:29 -
- Luke 19:37 -
- Luke 19:41 -
- Luke 19:45 -

Do you see the drama there, all the way to and through Jericho, and all the way up that 17 mile hill climb to Jerusalem until finally there was that dramatic and climatic moment that would mark his fate with the Jews, *"And he entered the temple!"*

### Zechariah 9:9

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."*

All four gospels give the account of the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. **(Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:12-16)**

### *Now, what's the situation here?*

When Jesus approached Bethany, near the mount that is called Olive... He sent two disciples saying, *"go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat.. Untie it and bring it here. 31If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.' "* (Luke 19:30-31)

Let's look at this day from the unique perspective of the donkey...but first, we must set the scene:

### **I - THE SAVIOR IN THIS STORY**

Jesus' first entry will lead to so much, including His soon to come "re-entry"!

#### His First Entry

1. Riding on a Colt.
2. He Came Alone
3. He wore A Crown of Thorns.
4. Called King of the Jews.

#### His "Re-entry"

1. Riding a Great White Horse.
2. Saints & Angels.
3. Will wear a Crown of Crowns.
4. Will be King of Kings.

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 5. He was Mocked & Jeered.    | 5. They will fear & Tremble.     |
| 6. He came as a Man.          | 6. He will come as God.          |
| 7. He was Meek & Lowly.       | 7. Will Come in Power & Glory.   |
| 8. He had Nails in His hands. | 8. He will have a Rod of Iron.   |
| 9. He Hung on a Cross.        | 9. He will sit on a Throne.      |
| 10. Judged in Pilate's Hall.  | 10. He Will be the Judge of all. |
| 11. He Came as the Lamb.      | 11. He will be the Lion.         |

### Special Study

Luke tells us that when he approached Jerusalem, *Jesus wept over it.*

Jesus saw the future of Jerusalem.

We see Him prophesying in Luke 19:43& 44. *"For the day will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side,<sup>44</sup> and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."*

Jesus looked at the Jerusalem and he could see that in 70 AD Titus and the Roman Legion would surround Jerusalem and besieged the city for 143 days.

And when they entered Jerusalem, they would slaughter 600,000 Jews and take thousands of them into captivity. They would totally destroy the temple and set it on fire. And they would turn one stone over another, extracting the gold that was between the bricks.

And Jerusalem became a pile of rocks. 70 AD

Even as He entered Jerusalem, knowing that betrayal, denial, jail, beatings, trials and death were His fate... He still wept for the people because He knew the future, the destruction of the Holy City because the people would once again turn their backs on God.

And Jesus looked and wept in the present. *"Because they did not recognize the time of their visitation."*

Assuming we were in this building next week... The question is. . . If Jesus, on this coming Palm Sunday came riding up Range Street from the south on the back of a donkey and he turned left on Ohio St. and parked that mule under our carport and he made his way into this sanctuary. . . Would we reject him in that moment of divine visitation?

### II – Lessons From The Donkey

- **First:** Jesus had a plan for the donkey... **In our lives He has a plan for each of us...**

**Jeremiah 29:11** *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."* ("welfare" also translated "peace")

His plan for us is that we enter into a relationship with God the Father. (John 3:16).

- **Second:** we need to realize is that the donkey was chosen to fulfill that plan... **God's word tells us that we too have been chosen to fulfill God's plan...**

**John 15:16** Jesus speaking directly to the disciples... *"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you."*

We are chosen that we might be used for His purposes (**Ephesians 2:10...we are His workmanship...**).

- **Third:** **Matthew 21: 7** says that the **donkey wore new clothes**. Garments were placed upon the donkey that Jesus might take His place upon the donkey... **When we come to Christ we receive new garments of life. The Bible tells us that we are clothed in Christ...**

**Galatians 3:27** *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*

- **Fourth:** We see that the donkey went where He was led. (it was unbroken!) Jesus has this effect on all His creation!

To be a part of the plan, the donkey had to go where he was led. **God does not always give us the route or even the destination...we must show our love by following obediently...**

**Genesis 22:2** Speaking to Abraham... *"He said, 'Take you son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.'"*

- **Fifth:** To me the greatest point is that the donkey's position made Jesus more visible. The donkey's position of service made Jesus visible to the crowd.

**When we humble ourselves, Christ becomes more visible to others.**

Jesus did not choose the proud, prancing mare. Nothing about the donkey took away from Jesus. Because Jesus was visible, a crowd was drawn.

It's not my kingdom, it's Jesus' kingdom! It's not me that should be exalted, but Christ! When we allow Jesus to be more visible in our lives we will see the responses of the people in this account. The crowd questioned, Who is that on the donkey? When we allow Jesus to be glorified in our lives people will talk and want to know more. When we live our lives in humble service Jesus will be glorified. To me one of the greatest truths is realizing that of all the perspectives available, the donkey was the only other perspective that got to see and experience the glory of Christ firsthand. When we are where Jesus is, His glory will overflow our lives.

To live as a donkey, you must recognize that God is requesting your presence, so that you might be used of Him. His plan for you is that you would let Him be Lord of your life. Daily clothe yourself in the fullness of Christ. Allow the Spirit to lead you and follow obediently. Humble yourself that others may see Jesus more clearly and...serve Christ faithfully that He might be glorified...for He is worthy!